A NEW SPECIES OF *EURHOPALOTHRIX* FROM EL SALVADOR (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

By Roy R. Snelling[1]

Abstract: A new species of basicerotine ant is described from two worker specimens from El Salvador, Central America. This new species, placed in the genus *Eurhopalothrix*, is a member of the *E. bolaui* group and is most closely related to *E. speciosa*. It differs from this and other species in the number and arrangement of specialized hairs on the head and body.

Several years ago I was given a number of miscellaneous ants by Dr. R. O. Schuster, University of California, Davis. A single vial of Berlese sample material from El Salvador yielded six basicerotine ants; two specimens each of *Octostruma balzani* (Emery), a new species of *Eurhopalothrix* described below, and a new genus and species. The latter has been described by Brown and Kempf (1968).

Dr. Brown first recognized the following species as new and returned it to me for description, along with specimens of *E. speciosa* Brown and Kempf for comparison. I wish to thank both Dr. Brown and Dr. Schuster for their assistance.

Eurhopalothrix apharogonia new species

Fig. 1

Diagnosis: A new species of the *E. bolaui* group as defined by Brown and Kempf (1960). It may be distinguished from other members of the group by the following combination of characters: four erect specialized hairs present on cephalic dorsum, no clavate hairs on posterior occipital angles, no erect clavate hairs on pronotal dorsum and posterior part of mesoscutum.

The abbreviations used in the following description are those of Brown and Kempf (1960).

Holotype worker: TL, 3.87; H1, 0.93; HW, 0.84 (CI, 90); scape L, 0.53; maximum diameter of compound eye, 0.03; WL, 1.12 mm. Form of head and body as shown in figures.

Appressed and subappressed ground pilosity similar to *E. speciosa, i.e.*, consisting largely of simple hairs, which are rather dense on mandibles and clypeus, sparse on petiolar nodes and gastric dorsum, very sparse and inconspicuous on vertex, occiput and thoracic dorsum; simple appressed hairs of tibiae replaced largely by appressed and decumbent spatulate or broadened hairs; larger specialized hairs thick-squamiform, smaller than corresponding hairs in *E. speciosa*; reduced in number on head, consisting of four rectangularly arranged hairs medially on occiput. Humeral pair absent in both speci-

[1]Entomology Section, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

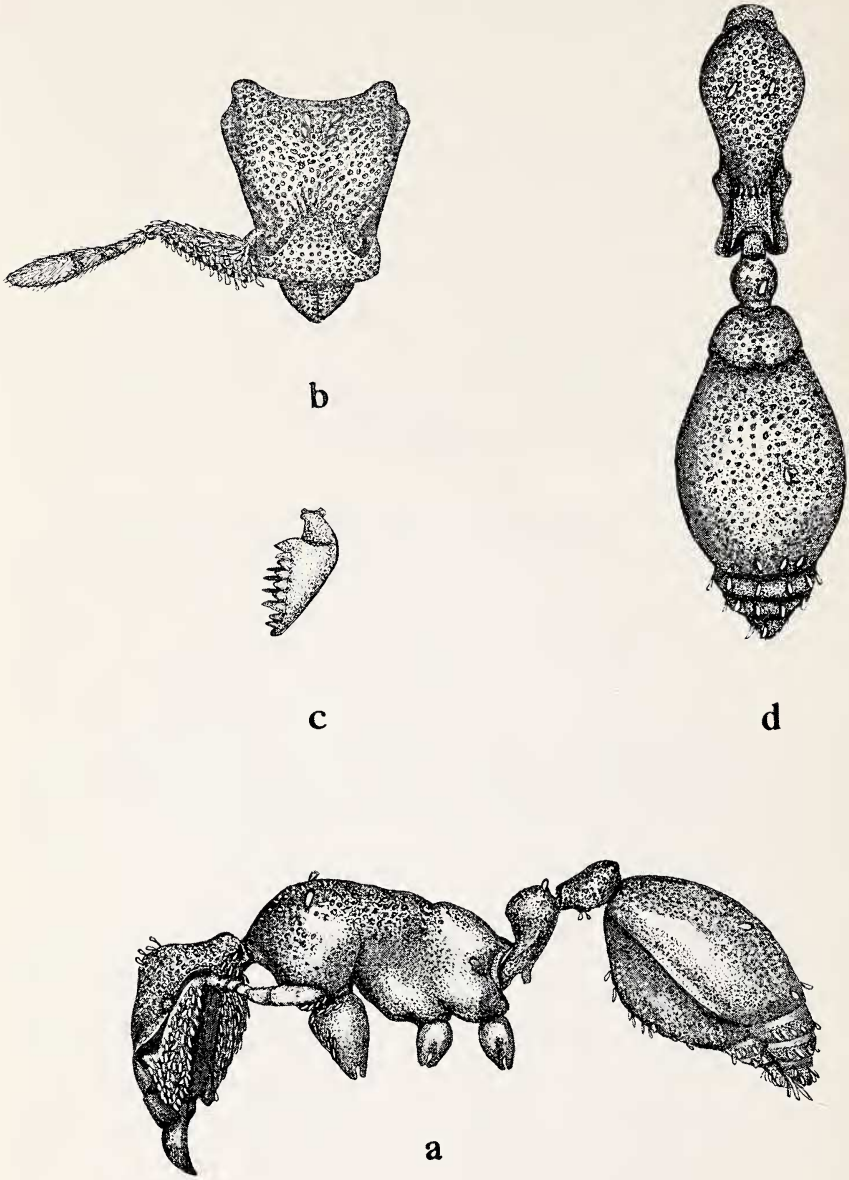

Figure 1. *Eurhopalothrix apharogonia*, new species. a, lateral aspect; b, frontal aspect of head; c, right mandible, enlarged; d, dorsal aspect of alitrunk and gaster. Illustrations by Ruth Ann DeNicola.

mens, presumably a real condition; a single pair present near middle of mesonotum, posterior pair lacking; postpetiole without dorsal clavate hairs. Median hairs lacking on first gastric segment of holotype (paratype has one median clavate hair; presumably one has been rubbed off).

Promesonotal suture obsolete; metanotal groove present but very poorly defined. Body somewhat shiny between moderate, rather close punctures; gastric pubescence sparser than that of thoracic dorsum; cephalic punctures denser on cephalic dorsum; finer on clypeus and distinctly separated. Mandibles shiny, finely punctate; masticatory margin with thirteen teeth, an outer set of ten, and an upper, inner set of three longer, spikelike teeth (Fig. 1). Color medium ferruginous, legs and antennae more yellowish.

Holotype: University of California, Davis, worker, EL SALVADOR, 4 miles north of Quetzaltepec, 7 July 1961, collected by M. E. Irwin.

Paratype: Worker, with same data as holotype, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Although *E. apharogonia* is one of the larger members of the *E. bolaui* group, it agrees with the smaller, more specialized species in the reduction of its erect pilosity. It is especially close to *E. speciosa* and *E. floridana* Brown and Kempf. From both of these it may be separated by the characters given in the key below, which is a modification of the appropriate portion of the key of Brown and Kempf (1960). The apical margins of the gastric segments are devoid of erect clavate hairs in the two specimens available to me. However, since these are consistently present in all other species of the group, as a group character, it seems logical that they are normally present in *E. apharogonia* also.

7. Dorsum of head with a single pair of erect clavate hairs on vertex, three pairs of erect clavate hairs on alitrunk, including one pair on pronotum (S Florida) ..... *floridana* Brown and Kempf

   Dorsum of head with two or three pairs of erect clavate hairs; one or two pairs of erect clavate hairs on alitrunk, none present on pronotum..... 8

8. Dorsum of head with three pairs of erect clavate hairs, one on each posterior occipital corner and two pairs arranged in a close rectangle on vertex; mesonotum with two pairs of erect clavate hairs (SE Brazil) .... *speciosa* Brown and Kempf

   Dorsum of head with two pairs of erect clavate hairs, arranged in a close rectangle on vertex; mesonotum with a single pair of erect clavate hairs (El Salvador) ..... *apharogonia* Snelling

The name of this new taxon is derived from the Greek *aphares*, unclad, and *gonia*, angle or corner, in allusion to the lack of clavate hairs on the posterior occipital angles.

RESUMEN

Una nueva especie de hormiga basicerotina, *Eurhopalothrix apharogonia,* es descrita como nueva especie basado en el estudio de dós ejemplares de hormigas obreras. Estas hormigas fuéron obtenidas cuatro millas al Norte de Quetzaltepec, El Salvador, America Central. Esta nueva especie há sido colocada en el genero *Eurhopalothrix.* Es un miembro del grupo *E. bolaui* y está estrechamente relacionada con *E. speciosa.* Esta difiere de todas otras especies del grupo *E. bolaui* en la combinación de caracteres que sigue: cuatro pélos especializados y eréctos en el dórsum cefálico, ausencia de pelos en forma el remo en los ángulos occipitales posteriores y ausencia de pélos eréctos en forma de remo en la región pronotal dorsal y la parte posterior del mesoscutum.

LITERATURE CITED

BROWN, W. L., JR., AND W. W. KEMPF. 1960. A world revision of the ant tribe Basicerotini. Studia Entomologica, (n.s.) 3:161-250.

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